

Player Tips

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Zynga Poker Player Tips

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As close to a mature game as you'll find on Facebook, Zynga Poker is a giant lobby for players wanting to clean up (virtually) in Texas Hold 'Em. Make no mistake: this game features gambling with virtual money, so while you may not lose your real shirt, a losing streak can deplete your virtual chips to the point of serious status loss.

1

The primary rule of Facebook games DOES NOT apply.

In most games, you will gain success from having as many neighbors as possible. Zynga Poker is different because most of your success comes from the luck of the draw and your personal poker skills. Friends do have a power to transfer their own chips to each other, or to gift free chips to each other, but these actions should be considered secondary to good game play. Besides, if you're good enough, you won't need any gifts.

2

The secondary rule of Facebook games DOES NOT apply.

In most Facebook games, you gain your biggest success by doing short-term actions, augmented by long-term actions that run when you're away from your computer. In Zynga Poker, this does not apply, because all gameplay revolves around playing poker with other players. The more hands you play, and the more you win, the higher and faster your XP goes up, though your XP is cosmetic only. This makes Zynga Poker a great game for those of you who cannot be on Facebook predictably, or simply don't want to be on Facebook regularly.

Zynga Poker is all about your gameplay skill. If you're the greatest poker player in the universe (at least among those who play Zynga Poker anyway), you can solo all the way up to the top of the leaderboard. Friends are fine, but it's every man for himself among those sitting at the same table.

3

If you're new to poker, read the tutorial, and do some research online.

There is a HUGE number of sites out there giving advice for Texas Hold 'Em, everything from legit gambling sites to FAQs for casino-themed videogames. The rules for Texas Hold 'Em are consistent throughout all these avenues, so there is plenty of information out there to help you increase your skill. In the interest of not being redundant, advice on poker itself is outside the scope of this tip sheet.

Even if you're a veteran and know the basic rules, such as that you have the order of hand ranks committed to memory, you may still want to do a little research. Getting some advice and seeing theoretical situations can only improve your skill.



Scout your competition.

When you join a table, you don't always sit down right away. See who's already at the table. New players have very distinctive new-player habits: they scare easily and won't go all-in, will bet conservatively, and are unpredictable. Also check how much money they're playing with: players who have very little money can be forced to go all-in and can be pushed out from the table quickly if that's what you're wanting. If you notice you're a wolf among sheep—or more to the

point, a sheep among wolves—you might want to consider sitting down and your overall betting strategy.

5

Take some risks

They call it "gambling" for a reason, and when you're playing with virtual money, you not out anything by losing it all. This isn't to say you should be an idiot: if you sit down at a table, don't go all-in with every chip you own when you have a 10-3 unsuited in your pocket. But because you don't have to worry about making next month's rent with your virtual chips, and because you have the perfect poker face since no one can actually see you, take some risks by bluffing or going all-in with a strong hand. Play smart, but remember that you can afford to play aggressively.

6

Stuff you can buy is cosmetic

Arguably, the act of buying the table a round of beer or champagne completes the experience. Still, it's all virtual stuff, just graphics on the screen: buying gifts for people or buying a little token for yourself to display beside your picture is all cosmetic only. It bears repeating that Zynga Poker is mostly skill-based with some luck thrown in, and there is no way to become better other than through practice.